

THE
HISTORY
OF
K
VALENTINE and ORSON.

READER, you'll find this little book contains,
Enough to answer thy Expence and Pains ;
And if with Caution thou wilt read it through,
'Twill both instruct thee, and delight thee too.



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THE

HISTORY

OF

VALENTINE and ORSON.

CHAP. I.

The Banishment of the Lady Bellisant, who was delivered of two fine Sons at a Birth, viz. Valentine and Orson, in a wood.

IT is recorded that Pepin, King of France, had a fair sister called Bellisant, who was married to Alexander Emperor of Greece, and by him carried to his capital city Constantinople; from whence, after having lived with great virtue, she was banished through the means of a false traitorous accusation of the archieft, whom he had severely repremanded for his imudence in making love to her; and though at that time she was great with child, yet was she compelled to leave her husband's empire, to the great regret of his people, being attended only with a 'squire, named Blanman, who had served her as a faithful servant in her master Pepin's court of France.

Now, after great fatigue and travel, she arrived in the town of Orleans, where finding her pains come thick upon her, she dismissed the 'squire to seek her a midwife

and sat down under a great tree, expecting his arrival; but ere he returned, she was delivered of two lovely

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a bad omen to their country. I find, however, at length, that she had two children; one of which was conveyed away by a She-bear, which she being desirous to retrieve, pursued on her hands and knees, leaving the other to the protection of Heaven; but see what happened, ere she returned again from her fruitless pursuit: king Pepin being hunting in the forest, came to the tree where she left the other infant, so causing it to be taken up, he ordered one of his squires to put it to a nurse, who, when he grew up, called his name Valentine. Blandiman at length came back, and instead of finding his mistress found her brother, the king of France, at the tree, whom he declared all that happened; and how his sister was banished, through the false suggestions of the accursed arch-priest; which, when king Pepin heard, he was greatly enraged against the lady Bellifant, say-

the emperor had been too favourable to her, in not killing her. And so leaving Blandiman, he returned with his nobles towards Paris : But the lady Bellisant, after having long followed the bear to no purpose, she returned towards the place, where she laid the other babe down : but great was her sorrow, when Blandiman told her that he had seen her brother Pepin, but that as to the child he could tell nothing of it : And having comforted her all he could for the loss of both her children, they went to the sea side, took shipping, and arrived at the castle of the giant Ferragus in Portugal.

Now all this while the bear did nourish the infant among her young ones, who at length grew up to a wildairy man, doing mischief to all that passed through the forest, insomuch that he was dreaded by the inhabitants of the adjacent towns and villages, where we will leave him ; and shall return to the arch-priest, who went on doing mischief, till he was impeached by a merchant, who accused him of having wrongfully blamed the emperors ; whereupon they were appointed to fight at a certain time and place, which was fixed by the emperor,

in which the merchant got the better, and made the priest confess his treason ; which, when the emperor heard, he was exceedingly sorrowful for having banished so good a consort ; and wrote letters to his brother the king of France, who read them with great pleasure, seeing they brought the tidings of his sister Bellisant's innocence.

CHAP. II.

Valentine conquers his brother Orson, the wild man, in the forest of Orleans.

NOW was Valentine grown a lusty young man and by the king greatly respected, who had as much care taken of him as if he had been his own child, commanding him to be instructed in the use of arms, in which he became so expert, that very few knights in the whole court could talk with him which made Haufry and Henry, the king's two bastard sons, exceedingly envy him, but chiefly for the great affection the king bore to him. Now, at this juncture there was great complaints made against the wild man from whom no knight had escaped with life that had encountered with him, which made the king proffer a reward of one thousand marks to any person that would bring him alive or dead; which grand offer no knight was so bold as to accept, all greatly fearing the puissant force of the wild man. Haufry and Henry desired king Pepin to send Valentine, thereby to get rid of this so powerful a rival in the king's favour but his majesty perceiving their malice, was exceeding angry with them, telling them at the same time, that he had rather lost the best baron in his kingdom, than the ingenuous fondling youth, Valentine.

However, Valentine, to shew that he did not fear to undertake this dangerous enterprize, desired permission of his majesty to depart towards the forest, resolving either to conquer the wild man, or to leave his dead carcase to be devoured by wild beasts, with which the wood partly abounded. Accordingly, having

enriched himself with a very good horse and arms; after a day's travel he arrived at the forest; it being in the evening, he tied his horse to a spreading tree, and got up therein, and slept there that night for his greater security.

Next morning early, he beheld the wild man traversing the forest in search of prey, and at length came to the tree where Valentine's horse stood, whom he



wondered at, he began to scratch and claw insomuch that he kicked at him with great fury. The wild man, feeling the pain that the kicks caused him to suffer, he was about to tear him in pieces; which Valentine seeing from the tree, made signs to him, that he would come and fight him; so leaping down, and drawing his sword, he struck at him with great courage, but the wild man avoided the stroke, caught hold of him by the arm, and threw him down upon the ground; and then

taking the shield, which Valentine had dropped in the
fall he beheld it right straigly, in regard of the divers
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Valentine being sore bruised got up a last ; then
came running towards his brother, thinking to smite
him with the sword, but Orson gave back, and running
to the tree, he tore it up by the roots, and then flew
eagerly to Valentine, and Valentine at him ; till at
length being tired ; and sore wounded, they parted by
consent to breathe : In which time, Valentine looked
earnestly at the wild man, made signs, that if he would
submit, he would give him all things necessary for a ra-
tional creature.

Orson, understanding that he meant his good, kneel-
ed down, and stretched out his hands in a humble pos-
ture, which greatly rejoiced Valentine, who bound the
wild man, and led him at the horse's tail without any
resistance, carrying him to Paris, to the great astonish-
ment of the people, and presented him to king Pepin,
who greatly applauded and admired his vast courage
and fortitude ; and Valentine got the wild man baptiz-
ed, and called him Orson, from his being found in a green
wood. During his stay there, Orson, with his actions
very much amused the whole court : But that was not
long, by reason that the duke of Aquitain had sent let-
ters, importuning that whosoever should overthrow the
green knight, pagan champion, he shold have his
daughter Fezon in marriage ; by which proposition
Valentine took his journey to that province, attended
only by his brother Orson ; by which he came to the
knowledge of his parents, which you will hereafter
hear.

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CHAP. III.

Orson and the green Knight fight, &c.

AFTER much travel, Valentine and Orson arrived at the Lake of Savary's palace in Aquitain; and making known the reason which brought them thither, viz. To fight the green Knight, for the love of the fair lady Fezon, they were kindly received by the duke and presented to the lady; to whom Valentine spoke in the following manner, fair creature, king Pepin hath sent me hither with the bravest Knight in the realm, to encounter the green Knight, who, though he be dumb and naked, is endued with such puissance and valour, that no Knight under the sun is able to wield a sword against him. During which speech, the lady viewed Orson narrowly, and he her; but supper coming in, interupted them, and they all sat down to eat.

Whilst they were in the midst of their feasting, there entered to see the lady Fezon, according to his custom, saying, valiant duke of Aquitain, have you any more knights to cope with me for your fair daughter? to whom the duke answered, Yes: I have now seventeen: And then carried him into the hall, and shewed him all the knights, among whom sat Valentine and Orson; and when he had seen them, he said to them, lords, eat and be merry, for to-morrow will be your last; which Orson understanding he was greatly incens'd at him, and suddenly rising from the table, he caught him in his arms, and swinging him round, threw him with great force against the adjacent wall, which made the green knight lie a considerable time, as though he were dead, which very much surprized and diverted the whole company.

Next day several knights were to encounter the green knight, but he overthrew and slew them all till at length Orson being armed in Valentine's armour, he went to the green knight's pavilion, and having desired him, they began the most desperate combat that ever was heard of; the green knight struck such

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TEN
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great stroke at him, that cut off the top of his helm, and half his shield, surely wounded him: but it only served to enrage the valiant Orson, who coming up to him on foot, took hold of him: and pulling him from of his horse, got affride of him, and was going to kill him, but was prevented by the hidden rival of Valentine, to whom the green knight spake desiring him to spare his life, which Valentine did, the following conditions: first, to turn christian: secondly, to go to Paris, and tell king Pepin, that Valentine and Orson, he was overthrown in fight.

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Having thus promised, they led him prisoner to the city of Aquitain, where the duke received them with great joy, and triumph, and offered the lady Fezon in marriage to Orson, as his just reward: but he by signs gave them to understand, that he would no: marry her, until his brother had won the lady Clerimond, the said green knight's sister, whom he had given to Valentine; nor till they had talked to the enchanted head of bras, knew his parents, and had gotten the use of his tongue, which when the lady Fezon knew she was very sorrowful, because she loved Orson exceedingly, resolving never to have any other person for her husband, but he who conquered the green knight.

CHAP. IV.

Valentine and Orson went in search of the Lady Clerimond, who had the Brazen Head in keeping,



NOW Valentine and Orson having taken leave of the duke of Aquitain, and his fair daughter

Fezon, prepared for their departure, and having got every thing necessary, they proceeded on their journey. In search of the lady Clerimond, the green Knight's sister, who had the keeping of the magical head of bras: and after many days travel, came to an Island, upon which there was a tower of burnish'd bras, to which they directed their march, and arrived at the gates, they were told it was kept by Cle. rimond, sister to the giant Ferragus, and the green Knight; and having demanded entrance, was refused it by the sentinel who guarded the ports; which provoked Valentine to that degree, he run' against him with such a fury, that he fell'd him to the ground.

The lady Clerimond beheld the combat, and seeing them to be brave and hardy Knights, she received them exceeding courteously: to whom Valentine having pretended tokens to the green Knight, told her, that he came there for the love of her, and to discourse with the all knowing head concerning his parents. So a banquet being prepared, they refreshed themselves plenteously: and after they had so done, the lady taking them by the hand, led them into the chamber of rarities, where the head was placed between four pillars of pure jasper, where, as soon as they entered, the head made the following speech.

Thou famous Knight, of royal extraction, art called Valentine the valiant, who of right ought to marry the lady Clerimond: thou art son to the emperor of Greece, and the empress Bellisant, who is now in the castle of Ferragus, in Portugal, where she has resided these twenty years: King Pepin is thy uncle, and the wild man thy brother; the empress Bellisant brought forth ye two in the forest of Orleans; he was taken away

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by a ravenous bear, and thou wast taken up by thy uncle Pepin, who brought thee up to man's estate; moreover, I likewise tell thee, that thy brother shall never be able to speak, till thou cuttest a thread which grows under his tongue.

The head having thus ended his speech, Valentine tenderly embraced Orion, and immediately cut the thread that grew under his tongue, upon which he spake very distinctly, and related his manner of living in the wood; then Valentine made the lady Clerimond turn christian, and married her, at which the whole Island was exceeding rejoiced; But alas! all their joy was soon interrupted, as you shall hear.



In this castle lived a dwarf, named Pacoler, who was an enchanter, and had by his art contrived a horse of wood, and in his forehead he fixed a pin, by turning of which, it would carry him through the air in a

day to any part of the world. This inhabanter, perceiving what was done in the castle, took his horse, and rode to Portugal, and acquainted the giant Ferragus of his sister's nuptials, and that she was turned to the Christian religion: which when the giant heard, he was so enraged, that he swore by Mahomet that he would make her repent her transaction contrary to his pleasure; he directly got ready his fleet, and sailed towards the castle of Clerimond, and when he arrived, he concealed his malice from his sister and the two Knights, telling them that he came to fetch them into Portugal, the better to celebrate their marriage: and that he would turn Christian at their arrival at his castle. All which they believed, and so quickly embarked with him. When he got them into the ship, he commanded them to be seized, and laden with irons; which so grieved his sister Clerimond, that she endeavoured to throw herself into the sea, but was prevented by her attendants.

CHAR. V.

Pacolet comforts the two ladies, and by his art delivers Valentine and Orson out of Prison.

WHEN they were come to Portugal, he caused Valentine and Orson to be put into a dungeon, and fed with only bread and water; but for his sister he sharply rebuked her giving her the liberty of the castle, where she met, as she was sorrowing, with the empress Bellisant, who had lived 20 years in the castle of Ferragus, for seeing her so full of grief, came to comfort her, enquiring the reason; all which Clerimond told her, and that they were her two sons, Va-

Valentine and Orson, which she had learned from the brazen head, for which she made such lamentations. The empress hearing this, was almost struck dead with sorrow; but Pacolet at that instant entering, gave them both much comfort, by promising to relieve Valentine



and Orson that night, and to set them safe, and out of danger of being any more disturbed of the wicked Pagan Ferragus, which he accordingly effected in this manner: in the dead of the night, when all the castle was asleep, he goes to the dungeon where Valentine and Orson lay bound, and touched the doors with his magical wand, they flew open, and discovered the poor Knights in a very forlorn condition, but he coming to them, unloosed their chains and taking them by the hand, he led them to the apartment where Bellifant and Clerimond were, who, when they saw them, were exceedingly rejoiced: but Pacolet hindered them from discoursing long, by telling them they must depart e'er

the guards of Ferragus should awake, which would put a stop to his proceedings.

So Pacolet led them to the great gates of the castle, which he unloos'd, and then carried them to the sea shore, where he had prepared a proper ship to transport them wherever they should think convenient; which at Orson's request, went to Aquitain, in order to marry Fezon, since now he had got the use of his tongue, and found out his parents.

Next morning, when Ferragus heard of their escape, he was enraged to the last degree, and sent out his armed men in search of them, and they returned without any news; the knights and ladies being got entirely out of danger, to the great joy of the duke and nobles, but chiefly fair Fezon, who was soon after married to the brave and courageous Orson, with great solemnity; and upon which they wore tilts and tournaments many days, but Valentine carried the prize from opposers, overthrowing, at least, one hundred of the most valiant knights that had come from all parts of the world.

CHAP. VI.

Ferragus assembles a mighty army, and lays siege to Aquitain; so revenge himself of Valentine and Orson.

FERRACUS, to be revenged of his sister Clerimond and the brave Knights, assembled all his men of war, and put to sea; at length arriving at Aquitain he laid siege to it, with a vast army of Sarazens; which when duke Savory saw, he resolved to give

battle next morning and accordingly sailed fort with all his forces, he himself being in the front, and Ferr-



gus also headed his men, when a most bloody fight ensued, which was maintained with great courage on both sides, for some time, the duke Savoy being desirous of the victory, he ventured too far, and was taken prisoner; who by Ferragus's order was bound, and conveyed him to his tent.

Now Orson was resolved to set him free, or lose his life in the attempt; and putting on the arms of a dead Sarazon, he called Pacolet, so both of them went through the enemy's army, without being discovered, till they arrived at the tent where the duke was confined, the guards of which were cast into a deep sleep by Pacolet: which done, they took off the duke's chains, and giving him a horse, he rode back to the Christian army; which when they beheld their duke at liberty, cried out, long live the duke of Aquitain; at

the Saracens were sore dismay'd, that they fled into great confusion, when the Christians followed them, till night forced them to return into the city, but not till they had scarce left Ferragus a thousand men, of all the numerous army he brought with him, against the duke of Aquitair, being obliged to retire into Portugal, with the disgrace of being beat with a small army of Christians.

Soon after the Victory, Valentine and Orson, the empress Bellisant, and the ladies Clerin and Fezon, set out for Constantinople, to see the emperor their father, so they took their leave of the duke of Savory and all his nobles. After a long and tedious journey, they arrived at Constantinople, and were received by the emperor with great solemnity, who tenderly embraced his sons, and begged pardon of his wife, the lady Bellisant, for having wrongfully banished her through the wicked instigations of the Archpriest. The joy of King Pepin was no less to see all these worthy personages met together.

At length the emperor set out from Constantinople, after having taken leave of his wife Bellisant, his sons, Valentine and Orson, to visit a strong castle he had in Spain. Whilst he was absent, Brondifer, brother to Ferragus, invaded the emperor with a great army, and at length besieged Constantinople, in which city resided the empress, Valentine and Orson, with the green Knight, and all the ladies, besides a great number of noble warriors.

Valentine seeing the deplorable condition they were in, resolved to give Brondifer battle, and thereupon divided his army into ten battalions, commanded by himself, Orson, the green Knight, and seven others of the nobility and best of chivalry; and giving his sonnes, Valentine and Ferragus, command of the army, hee went into the field to give battle to the Saracens, who were now gathered together in great numbers, and were ready to attack the Christians.

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most valiant commanders, at the head of whom they all falleid out of the city and began the fight with the Saracen, who stood drawn up in battalion, ready to receive them.



In the mean time was the emperor upon the sea returning, but upon the way meets a fleet going to the assistance of Brandifer, who bore upon him with full sails : whereupon, exhorting his companions to behave themselves like men, they made ready to receive them, and after a most obstinate and bloody battle, the emperor obtained the victory, having slaughtered many of the Pagans and dispersed their ships ; he then commanded his men to put on the arms of the vanquished Saracens, as he did himself, thinking thereby to fall better upon his enemies the besiegers : but this method proved fatal to him, as you shall hereafter find.

All this time the Christians and Valentine most bravely encountered Brandifer's men, before the walls

of Constantinople, sometimes gaining and sometimes losing ground, but at length Valentine came to the standard of Brandifer, where an Indian King ran against him with great force, but Valentine avoiding him, came upon him so suddenly that he clove him down to the middle. On the other side Orson and the green Knight were not at all idle, but with their brandish'd swords, they cut themselves a passage quite through the army of the Pagans, destroying all that opposed them.

Soon after tidings came, that a great fleet of Saracens was entering the harbour, so Valentine thought it convenient to go thither, and oppose their landing; but it proved fatal, for this fleet was the emperor's, his father, who being armed in Saracen's arms, he by mistake, ran him quite through the body with his spear; which unfortunately was the emperor. Orson seeing his father slain began to weep, and "nowing Valentine by his armour, said to him, Alas, brother Valentine, here is small comfort . . . , for you have slain your father." Valentine hearing this, broke out in such a grievous lamentation, that it grieved all his followers to hear him." Alas, quoth he, what an infamous deed have I done! what a wicked act have I committed! I have spent my life in trouble, and now have added murder to my other sins!" Orson seeing him thus lament, comforted him, and desiring him to go with his army to the battle, for the Pagans in his absence had prevailed. And he desiring a horse mounted thereon, and intending to lose his life, rushed into the thickest of the battle, and meeting a Pagan prince, ran his sword through his body, overthrowing all that opposed him, till he came where the giant Brandifer was making havock among the christians, and smote him with his sword, and so he fell dead.

... who when he saw him, encountered him so
fiercely, that he fell to the ground, and Valentine,
giving him a stab in the groin, sent him to visit his
false prophet Mahomet:

The Pagan seeing their king lie dead, threw down
their arms and ran, the Christians pursuing them with
great slaughter; at last the pursuit being over, they re-
turned to Constantinople, where Orson acquainted the
empress of the death of his father, but would not dis-
cover by whom it was done; upon which, it was con-
cluded that Valentine and Orson should govern the em-
pire by turns, together with their wives, the ladies Fe-
zon and Clerimond, whose brother, the green Knight,
was crowned king of the great Mountains; the peo-
ple of which was greatly rejoiced in having for their
King so illustrious a warrior.

In the mean time great troubles arose in France; king Pepin being arrived there, and the twelve peers
of France, from the strong castle where they had been
prisoners, Haufry and Henry began to plot the death
of the king and queen, and their young son Charle-
main, whom the king had made heir to the crown and
kingdom, to bring their devilish design to pass, they in-
vited the king and queen, and their son, to a rich ban-
quet. But Charleman came not; in the midst of the
banquet, they filled a cup of deadly poison, and gave
it to the king, and the king drank to the queen, and
the poison wrought so in their bodies, that they fell
down dead at the table. After that Haufry and Hen-
ry seized on all the strong castles and cities, but could
not find the young prince Charleman, who was under
his sister's protection; whereupon having aid from the
king of England, she fought many battles successfully,

against Haufry and Henry, till they were both slain; and Charleman was crowned king, to the great joy of the whole kingdom, because he so eminently shewed forth his father's virtues.

CHAP. VII.

How Valentine in a Pilgrim's Habit, went to the India court, by the name of a doctor; and of his curing a lady that was lunatic.

VALENTINE being arrived at the city where the king of India kept his court, like a physician; takes up his lodgings at an inn in the town. His host began to enquire of him, what he was? Valentine told him that he was a physician that could cure all manner of diseases; and therefore desired him to let his man go into the city, and post up some bills, that he might make known his art, whereby to get something to defray his charges; which the host consented to: Valentine's man having done as he was ordered some of the courtiers chanced to espy the bills, and reading in them that the doctor could cure madness, declares it to the king; he sent directly for Valentine and called him aside, told him, that he had in the court a lady that was lunatic, whom if he would cure, he should have a bountiful reward: Valentine attending to the king's tale, told him he would endeavour to restore the lady to her senses; therefore, great sovereign, cause a fire to be made in her chamber, and I'll be with her to night, and use my skill. The king called one of his servants to guide Valentine to the lady's

chamber, where he left him ? the lady beholding him, began to throw things at him ; Valentine seeing her, said, Alas, dear lady, I am sorry to see you in this condition ; and if you will take some of my drugs, it will bring you to your health again : the lady looked with amaze on Valentine, seeing by his majestic appearance, that he seemed to be a person of some noble family ; and told him, " I will try your drugs, and see if they will do me any service." Valentine prepared a dose of his medicine, and gave her ; which made an effectual cure on her in a short time. The noise spread abroad of this great performance ; but Valentine, after he got his reward from the king for curing the lady, who did not chuse to continue at his new employment, takes farewell of the Indian court, and leaves it.

CHAP. VIII.

Valentine dies, and Orson turns hermit.

VALENTINE being greatly troubled in mind for the death of his father, whom he had killed through mistake, resolved to take a pilgrimage to the holy sepulchre ; and calling his lady aside, he declared to her his intention, and broke a ring in twain, and charged her not to marry until she saw that piece of the ring again : and said, if he did not bring it himself, he would send it when he died ; after taking his leave of her, and giving the government of the empire to his brother, he departed to the great sorrow of all, particularly his mother Bellisant, and the fair Clerimond. Valentine, after seven years absence, returned, dressed like a poor palmer, begging victuals at his own palace gates ; and at length grew sick, and was like to die, and having called for Clerimond, he made himself known as well as he could.

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At length, recommending the care of her to Orson and the empress, and blessing them, he turned on one side, and breathed out his noble soul from his illustrious body, to the great grief of all the valiant Knights in Christendom, to whom, he was a noble example, and a generous relievèr; but Clerimond would never after marry, and betook herself to a single life, always lamenting the loss of her renowned husband green knight.

Orson after Valentine's death, governed the empire with great wisdom and justice for seven years, but perceiving the frail and inconstant state of human affairs, he gave the care of his empire, wife and children to the green Knight; and then turning hermit, he became a residenter of the woods, where, after having lived to a great age, this magnanimous and invincible hero, surrendered his body to never sparing death, and his soul to the immortal deity, of whose divine attributes he had a fine resemblance.

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*This Reader you may see that none withstand,
Though great in valour, and vast command
The mighty force of death; all conquering band.*

